



# NEWS RELEASE

## IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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### **Water Board Seeks Public Input for Idaho State Water Plan Update**

The Idaho Water Resource Board is seeking public input as it conducts a review and update of the Idaho State Water Plan.

The water plan establishes state policy that guides development, management, and conservation of Idaho's water resources. It contains objectives for state agencies and other organizations to meet the current and future water needs in the state.

The plan was first adopted in 1976 with four revisions in subsequent years with the last revision in 1996. The plan covers a wide range of issues related to conservation, development, management, and optimum water use including an inventory of Idaho water resources.

Among the issues that will be addressed during this process are global warming, climate variability, changing demographics, water supply, additional storage projects, and conjunctive management of surface and ground water.

The Idaho Water Resource Board is asking the public and interest groups to submit comments to the board regarding items they want the board to consider or issues related to existing policies. The existing plan is available at: [http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/Planning/State%20Water%20Plan/state\\_plan.pdf](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/Planning/State%20Water%20Plan/state_plan.pdf)

During the review process, a subcommittee of the board will meet as needed. Agendas and minutes for the subcommittee meetings are available at: [http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/Meetings\\_Minutes/minutes.htm](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/Meetings_Minutes/minutes.htm)

Prior to the plan's adoption, a series of public hearings will be conducted around the state seeking public input on a draft plan. Submission of the revised plan to the Idaho Legislature is expected in early 2010.

**(more)**

Comments, suggestions, or questions about the State Water Plan update can be submitted via e-mail to [iwrb-swp@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:iwrb-swp@idwr.idaho.gov) or by mail to IDWR Attn: Helen Harrington, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098.

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